

PUBLIC COMMENT AT CITY OF LAURINBURG COUNCIL MEETINGS

The City Council of the City of Laurinburg is committed to allowing members of the public an opportunity to offer comments and suggestions for the efficient and effective administration of government. In addition to public hearings, a special time is set aside for the purpose of receiving such comments and suggestions. All comments and suggestions addressed to the Council during the Public Comment Period shall be subject to the following procedures, rules and regulations:

- 1.** The Public Comment Period shall be held at the beginning of each regular monthly Council meeting. The comment period shall be limited to a maximum of thirty (30) minutes. Because subjects of Special and Emergency meetings are often regulated by law, there will be no Public Comment Period reserved on agendas of Special and Emergency meetings; however, like regular monthly meetings, these meetings are open for public attendance.
- 2.** Each person desiring to speak during the Public Comment Period shall have three (3) minutes to make his/her remarks. There shall be no more than three (3) speakers on any one (1) topic per meeting. It is recommended that speakers desiring to speak on the same topic and advocating the same position choose one (1) person to speak for all.
- 3.** Speakers shall be acknowledged by the Mayor or other presiding Councilmember and shall be allowed to speak only in the order designated. Speakers shall address the Board from the lectern at the front of the room and begin their remarks by stating their name and address. Speakers who require accommodation for a disabling condition should contact the office of the City Clerk or City Manager not less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting.
- 4.** Public comment is not intended to require the Council to answer any impromptu questions. Speakers shall address all comments to the Council as a whole and not to individual Councilmembers. Discussions between speakers and members of the audience shall not be allowed.
- 5.** Speakers shall be courteous in their language and presentation. Failure to abide by this requirement may result in forfeiture of the speaker's right to speak.
- 6.** Speakers who have prepared written remarks or supporting documents are encouraged to leave a copy of such remarks and documents with the City Clerk.
- 7.** Speakers shall not discuss any of the following: matters which concern the candidacy of any person seeking public office, including the candidacy of the person addressing the Council; matters which are the subject of public hearings; and matters which are closed session matters, including but not limited to matters within the attorney-client privilege, anticipated or pending litigation, personnel, property acquisition, and matters which are made confidential by law.
- 8.** The Council will not take action or respond to questions about issues raised during the Public Comment Period at the same meeting. For clarification, the Mayor or Councilmembers may ask the speaker questions. After the speaker has completed his/her remarks, at the request of the Mayor or a Councilmember, the City Manager, the City Attorney, or other appropriate staff member present may respond to a concern raised by the speaker during the Public Comment Period or may point out any misstatement by the speaker.
- 9.** Any person desiring to address the Council on a specific concern requiring more effective and informed action by the Council should contact the City Clerk at least two (2) weeks prior to the first Tuesday after the 15th day of the month for the topic to be reviewed for consideration to be placed on the regular agenda. Whenever possible, staff shall address the concern directly, but if staff cannot address the issue, if appropriate, the matter will be placed on the agenda as early as is practicable. The person making the request should provide sufficient information pertaining to his/her concerns to allow the Council to review the citizen's concerns and/or requests.